

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: October 11, 2021  
Time: 1:33pm  
Place: Via Zoom Meeting  
Egremont

Present at the meeting in person were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others present via zoom: Peg McDonough, Bruce Bernstein, Doug Mishkin, Eileen Vining, Fred Gordon, Mary McGurn, Rolfe Tessem, Matthew Bersani, and David Seligman.

The meeting was audio and video recorded.

Vice-Chair Vermeulen honored Alina Hsu who passed away recently. Ms. Hsu was a former member of the Conservation Commission and was fiercely committed to environmental justice, including the Wetlands Protection Act.

MINUTES:

The Board voted unanimously to accept with minor edits the minutes of the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Will Conklin did not attend to give an update on the Municipal Vulnerability Plan process. This update will be rescheduled.

Donna Bersch-Gordon, speaking for the Town Web Page Redesign Citizens Group, asked the Board to schedule a dedicated 40-45 minute meeting for the group to present its research, findings, and recommendations. The Board agreed to have Office Administrator Mary Brazie propose dates for a meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Douglas Mishkin to the Housing Committee.

Bruce Bernstein expressed his desire to step off the BRTA Board. Egremont gets 1 vote on the Board, but its presence is important especially as we move forward with our own transportation department. The Board agreed to ask Transportation Administrator Melanie Torrico if she would be the Town's representative. If not Van Driver Mike Harrigan may be interested.

The Board voted 2 in favor, with Selectperson Brazie recusing, to grant the employees Monday, December 27 as the second Christmas Holiday day off.

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Emily Stockman to do a Peer Review for the Conservation Commission and declared her a Special Municipal Employee.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Housing Committee moving forward with a Housing Needs Assessment, at no charge, to be completed by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Neither the Board or the Committee has officially reviewed the Housing Feasibility Study completed by S&K Design. Selectperson Brazie cautioned that it needs to be made clear to residents that this was a study only, not a proposal that is ready for build out.

The Board voted unanimously to subscribe to Survey Monkey for one year at a cost of \$385. The town just utilized the software for its ARPA survey but can only access 40 responses without a paid subscription. The software can be used for the required surveys for the MVP, Master Plan and Open Space & Recreation processes.

#### GRANTS:

Open Space & Recreation Update: David Seligman will be presenting names to the Board for appointment to the working group. He has already consulted with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission who will be supplying him with consultants names to reach out to.

Master Plan: Mary McGurn reported that the Planning Board will be discussing this process at its meeting on Thursday. She and Matthew Bersani were delegated to research the process.

ARPA: Peg McDonough reported that she is working on the power point for the October 19 public information meeting and will share her draft shortly.

#### COVID-19:

The Board of Health was not in attendance to report. It was noted that there has been a drop in cases in Berkshire County.

#### FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

Vice-Chair Vermeulen reported that the technology team is working with Fiber Connects Adam Chait still on the low income subsidy and is talking with him about wi-fi in the South Egremont Village and possibly at the North Egremont Store. Though the property owners on Hilltop Road have agreed to pole placements, there has been no resolution with the Commonwealth on poles on Brookvale Road. Adam Chait had reported to Town Hall that the pad for the broadband head end at French Park will be poured soon.

The Town will report to Jacobs Engineering that the water lines along Route 23/41 can be replaced with the same and not an upgraded pipe. The town still needs to get an affirmed commitment in writing from an organization to take care of the plants on the median at the Route 41 intersection.

#### SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on October 26, 2021 at 10:00am.

Adjournment 3:03pm

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.22/oct11

*The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.*